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**SUB: Specific Gaps in Your Latest (Jan 2016) Framework AND
Are We Doing Enough To Bring Fairness to Hinduism?**

I am Sandeep Dedge. I work for Amazon.com in Sunnyvale and I am father of 3 young kids. Your recent framework draft of History and Social Sciences Framework has issues that I pointed out in person at IQC meeting and Public hearing on 22nd Jan. I have also participated in all past public hearings of Y2015 as well in person.

Requesting your attention to the detailed version with specific references as below:

I was in front of you on 22nd Jan to request your **continued attention** - to following in relation to the most recent draft.

1. Are **we continuing to align enough with Californian law – Educational Codes 51501, 60040, 60044 (a), (b)** and Standards for evaluation relating to feeling secure, feeling accepted? I believe not.

2. Are we utilizing the **same measuring parameters** to portray Hinduism as we are using for other major cultures – quantitatively and qualitatively? For example, slavery relating to other major religions has been omitted from 7th grade framework chapters. And such omission is the correct thing to do in alignment with spirit of History and Social Sciences for young minds and Californian Code sections. Then why does Untouchability continues to be inserted in 6th grade chapters?

3. Are we displaying **enough sensitivity to the bullying and taunting faced by Hindu girls and boys**? Most of the grievances reflected in experience of kids are originating from framework and not textbooks.

Do Hindu children have a right to feel secure in their religion and feel pride in their heritage like civilized kids? or are we going to continue to allow the middle school and high school academia to be used to demonize and corner a cultural heritage?

4. Are we giving opportunity to **American kids – around 460,000+ of them in 6th grade every year**, and approx. equal numbers in 7th grade, to learn about one of the most ancient living culture on fair grounds, at par with other major cultures? Are we going to continue to refer, to the key purpose why History and Social Science was introduced in Californian History and Social Science which is “aware and accepting” of cultural diversity?

Specifically, following areas:

A. Grade 6 Framework Chapter:

A1. Line# 874 and #875– untouchables STILL THERE. Needs to be removed.

A2. Number of words for social structure have grown from 90 to around 330. Need to bring below 100 words if the length of sections on Hinduism is not to grow beyond around 2000 words.

A3. Lines #892 and #893 – Priest portrayed as misusing the religion. Please remove.

A4. Line # 809 – References to vermilion is missing, needs to be added.

A5. Lines #821 to #830: have shadow of Eurocentric view. As if Indian culture was developed by people coming from outside India. Please rewrite or remove.

A6. References missing for Hindu concepts of Universal Acceptance, Environmentalism, Nature Worship; Please add these on Line #860.

B. Grade 7 Framework Chapter:

B1. References missing for Maratha Empire, Sangama Period. Please add after line 932: *During this time, India also saw the emergence of thriving cultures including the Tamil Sangam (200 BCE to 200 CE) in the Southern part of Indian peninsula. Much like with the Mauryan Empire, strong central states built important infrastructure, including taxfunded roads and ports. The empires engaged in global trade with Egypt, China, Rome, and the Mauryan Empire to the north.*

Moreover, the Tamil Sangam is still renowned for the vast expanse of literature it spawned, including five epics and various anthological works.

B2. References missing for Vijayanagar empire. Please add after line 753 *In southern India, the Hindu Vijayanagara empire dominated the scene for about 250 years and ushered in a period of cultural revival, the highlights of which were classic literature in the Sanskrit, Telugu and Kannada languages. Its prosperous capital, Hampi (which was described by many European and Middle Eastern chroniclers), was the site of magnificent temples before being plundered by armies of the neighboring sultanates. Its ruins are a UNESCO world heritage site.*

B3. Please add References missing for Chanakya, Arthashastra, Temple Architecture on line #922: *The Arthashastra, a treatise which covers topics from statecraft to economics to ethics, is ascribed to Maurya's royal advisor, Chanakya, and is still referred to today as a basis for Indian political thought.*

B4. References missing for Katthak, Bharatnatyam, Tabla. Please refine line #697 as *“achievements in science, math, art (including Music such as Tabla and Dance such as katthak, bharatnatyam), architecture, and Sanskrit literature”*

Thank you

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